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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/001,643	12/31/97	ALBERT	1431/USW0391

022193
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LM02/0616

EXAMINER

HUYNH, C

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2776

DATE MAILED: 06/16/00

9

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/001,643

Applicant(s)
Albert et al.

Examiner
Cong-Lac Huynh

Group Art Unit
2776



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Apr 4, 2000

☒ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☐ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

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DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: amendment filed on 4/4/00 to the application filed on 12/31/97.
2. Claims 1-12 are pending in the case. Claims 1 and 8 are independent claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103© and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

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5. Claims 1-4, 6-11 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anand et al. (US Pat No. 5,710,900, 1/20/98) in view of Peters et al. (US Pat No. 5,884,284, 3/16/99).

Regarding independent claim 1, Anand discloses:

-- A system for generating reports from a computer database (col 1, lines 5-7, 54-67).

--The system includes a graphical user interface which allows the user to select and specify the parameter for the report, display the report, print the report, and save the report (col 2, lines 1-4).

--The server computer is coupled to the database computer includes the database containing a collection of information about an enterprise of the user. A client computer is coupled to the database computer and the server computer and executes an application program. The application program allows an user to create a report as desired (col 2, lines 14-25, 31-34, 39-41).

--Smart Report viewing subsystem includes a WYSIWYG browser which displays a selected Smart Report on the screen. If the user decides to drill down from the current, Smart Report viewing subsystem notifies the folder management subsystem to send a new report request. The user can select a Smart Report by choosing the "menu item-View" (col 9, lines 16-32).

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--The Smart Report Viewing subsystem allows the user to display and format text, tables and graphs in the report. The Smart Report Viewing subsystem also allows the user to add a header, a footer, and annotations to the report and save the report (col 9, lines 39-47).

-- The user has to log-on the system by entering the user's name and password to access the database system. The information entered is used as user-defined information in handling functions such as retrieving and storing folders or reports related to each user (col 6, lines 43-67; col 7, lines 1-13).

Anand, however, fails to disclose the database containing the user billing and inventory information. Peters discloses:

--An integrated system to create, maintain, and analyze individual telecommunication user account information. Furthermore, Peters discloses a method for generating a variety of billing, maintenance, operation reports, and other output from such information (col 1, lines 10-15; col 6, lines 4-12).

--The data in the database is of four general types: subscriber information, dwelling information, inventory system information, and miscellaneous information (col 6, lines 50-67; col 7, lines 1-27).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have combined Peters to Anand. As disclosed by Anand, the database that the user

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accesses to create and edit a report can be any kind of database and the database disclosed in Peters comprises billing and inventory database that allows the creating of billing report over telecommunications.

Regarding claim 2, which is dependent on claim 1, the fact that the Smart Report Viewing subsystem allows the user to format text, tables, and graphs in the report as well as add the footer, annotations to the report implies that the view editor receives and implements user editing instructions (disclosed in claim 1).

Regarding claim 3, the system of Anand includes a graphical user interface for the user to interact with the system.

Regarding claim 4, Anand discloses the aggregating method such as add, average, min, max, count to disclose the change in the Smart Report (col 17, lines 65-67; col 18, lines 1-50). Anand also discloses the drill down command (col 9, lines 16-32, col 10, lines 50-67).

Regarding claim 6, the system of Anand and Peters comprises an Internet connection and web browser.

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Regarding claim 7, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have known that the graphical user interface comprises Java applets and HTML page.

Claims 8-11 are the method for generating an on-line report performed on the system of claims 1-4, therefore rejected under the same rationale.

6. Claims 5, 12 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anand and Peters as applied to claims 1 and 8 above, and further in view of Melchione et al. (US Pat No. 5,930,764, 7/27/99).

Regarding claim 5, which is dependent on claim 1, Anand and Peter do not disclose that the report filter is arranged to receive user define value for use as threshold value to selectively control which database information will be included in a report. Melchione discloses the three-tier-hierarchy provides the "key" at each of the household, customer, and customer levels that satisfy user criteria for queries, views, and reports (col 16, lines 45-64). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have combined Melchione into Anand and Peters because Melchione provides the criteria as a threshold to select which data from the database to be included in the report.

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Claim 12 is the method to be performed on the system of claim 5, and therefore rejected under the same rationale.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed 4/4/00 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants argue that Anand does not teach or suggest that a user can input data generated and maintained by the user for inclusion within a report (Amendment, page 3).

Examiner disagrees. Anand does teach that feature (allow users to generate related reports (col 1, lines 54-62); allow users to regenerate related reports over new data (col 2, lines 39-41)).

Applicants also argue that Peter does not teach that a report generated from billing and inventory data stored in a database can be augmented under user control with externally maintained data.

Examiner disagrees. Peter does teach that feature (the invention may create, maintain ...television services (col 2, lines 20-45; col 1, lines 10-24); information is updated by various functions of the system, controlled by users at the system terminal...information is updated automatically (col 6, lines 4-12))

Conclusion

8. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

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A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cong-Lac Huynh whose telephone number is (703) 305-0432. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Razavi, can be reached on (703) 305-4713. The fax number to this Art Unit is (703) 308-5403.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

10. **Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

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Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 308-9051, (for formal communications intended for entry)

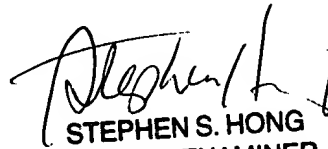
Or:

(703) 308-5403 (for informal or draft communications, please label
"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive,
Arlington. VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

clh

6/5/00


STEPHEN S. HONG
PRIMARY EXAMINER